

RESTRICTED

VIII REGION MILITAIRE (Military Area)

108th 1/2 BRIGADE

99th B.I.A.

397th Bn

STATEMENT OF THE BATTALION CHIEF CHALANDON
COMMANDING THE 99th B.I.A.

Probable way taken by the B-17G

Coming from NAPLES and going to LONDON, in passing through that area is a direct way. The plane struck at 3,700 meters, so it must have passed about the Col Du Mont-Cenis, avoiding the 2 big Mass of Grand-Paradis and Haute Tarentaise, East of La Vanoise at the West.

They certainly intended to pass at the West of the Mass du Mont-Blanc.

The plane hit the first high peak limiting that Mass at the South-West.

The weather was fairly cloudy on the day (See Weather statistics). Was the peak of the Mont Blanc (4807) meters clear and the surrounding summits cloudy? Such things happened very often. If so, we know the reason of the collision. The plane continued to fly in a straight line, flying close to the Mont-Blanc.

If the summit of the Aiguille de Glaciers was clear, the pilots would have seen it from very far, that mountain being like a black pyramid emerging from an enormous glacier.

The Conclusion is: A sudden deficiency of the plane, or a mistake in the piloting.

BOURG ST MAURICE, 16 August 1947
Chalandon, Jean Andre, Bn Chief
Commanding the 99th B. I. A.

DISTRIBUTION:

The General Commanding the 8th
Region - LYON.
The Colonel commanding the 108th 1/2
BRIGADE.
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